

**Viewer Comments
Following Seven Hours of
Continuous Storm
Coverage on
June 24, 2003**

KELO-TV
Sioux Falls, SD

On June 24, 2003, South Dakota tied the national record for most tornadoes in one state in one day. Sixty-seven tornadoes were confirmed in a seven hour period. KELO-TV stayed on the air continuously, from before the first tornado warning was issued through the final storm of the evening, utilizing station's three live Doppler radars and vast weather technology. Two of the station's meteorologists were in the field chasing the strongest tornado, witnessing and describing the destruction of the town of Manchester as it happened.

Despite the monumental scope of the tornado outbreak, no fatalities occurred.

Storm Center

From: ddfriese@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 9:15 AM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: (no subject)

Shawn,

After watching you on CNN just a minute ago, I had to write.

Your interview really showed the hometown excellence that makes our state so unique. Your enthusiasm carried as it always does. First, bringing the news, then telling the story but most importantly the concern of all the victims of the storm. Our little state of South Dakota truly has superior people and you proved it with your CNN report! Nice Job!

Storm Center

From: William Waltz [wwaltz@usd.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 3:21 PM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: Last night's coverage

To the KELO Storm Team:

You guys rock. Your coverage was exceptional and you should be confident you helped and protected many people.

Just like the CMN Celebration, you folks do quality work.

Many thanks.

Bill Waltz

Pediatric Cardiologist
Sioux Valley Children's Specialty Clinics
(605) 333-7199
(605) 333-1585 (FAX)

Storm Center

From: Martin Family [dwm@mato.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 4:03 PM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: coverage

I would like to thank you for the superior coverage and warnings of the severe weather on June 24, 2003. I live in Spearfish, but my husband is in Sioux Falls attending meetings. I was not as worried about his safety due to your live coverage of the storms. You all are excellent at your jobs. My thanks for making me feel better.

Laura Martin

6/25/2003

Storm Center

From: Dick Neish [neish@itctel.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 7:21 PM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: Coverage

You did an OUTSTANDING job of coverage last nite. I taped it from 7 to abt 11 and reviewed it on the mid shift last nite. You were rite on target as I compared it with what really happened on the ground. Keep it up.

Dick Neish, communicator
Lake Co., 911 Comm.
Madison SD

6/25/2003

Storm Center

From: Evonne Culver [evonneculver@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 8:26 AM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: A HUGE THANK YOU FROM WEST RIVER!!!!

To Shawn,Brian, Angela,Scott, Jody,Jolene,Anna,Jay & ALL the behind the scene workers:

I know that I speak for many of us in the Rapid City area when I say a huge **thank you** for the excellent coverage on the storms last night. I have family in Wess Springs, Huron, Cavour, Iroquois, Mitchell, Sioux Falls, Harrisburg so can't express my appreciation enough for the TRUE meaning of caring that you give to our state.

My mother, Opal Brooks lives in Huron (will turn 75 yrs old on 7/11/03-she really enjoys listening to you all, but thinks Shawn is so nice-maybe you could wish her a Happy Birthday on 7/11/03, if time permits) & lives in an apt. ONLY by the excellent coverage was I able to tell her the sirens were going off. She then did take some pillows & sit in her bathroom ,which has interior walls. I TRULY BELIEVE THAT YOUR EXCELLENT COVERAGE DID SAVE LIVES!!

Lots of us in west river listen to KELO because of the great coverage you give for the entire state. Thank you again for all the hard work, you all prove that money isn't everything!!! You can tell that yes this is your job, but that you TRULY do care. Know there are lots that appreciate you!!

PLEASE SHARE THIS EMAIL WITH THE PRODUCTION MGR.,CEO, OWNER OF KELOLAND AND ALL THE BEHIND THE SCENE WORKERS!

GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

Evonne
Rapid City, SD

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Storm Center

From: Tim Dingman [dingman@mcleodusa.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 5:08 PM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: THANK YOU!!!

To the Kelo-land weather team...and all who helped with updates,

Thank you so much for your amazing, tireless coverage of the storms Tuesday, June 24th. We live on the northwest corner of Sioux Falls, just blocks from Marion Road and Highway 38. We were "camped" in our basement anyway, but thanks to you, my husband made us aware by watching you that it could be coming our way, so we were able to take even safer shelter within our basement. It was calming knowing that we would be made aware of every new development, and our four month-old daughter and three year-old son will hear many stories from that night!

It is because of you that so few people were even hurt by what could have been a devastating night for South Dakota and surrounding areas. Homes can be replaced, but lives cannot. What you do every day saves lives.

God bless you,
Tim and Joanna Dingman and family

6/25/2003

Storm Center

From: Jay Fritzemeier [JayFritz@trailking.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 2:48 PM
To: Stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: Netcast During Severe Weather?

I am with Trail King Industries in Mitchell, and we are interested in internet based weather coverage. The local radio stations give us good coverage but it is limited to the audio. When severe weather approaches the ability to monitor the most timely and accurate coverage via the internet would be helpful in giving us the best possible chances of keeping our employees safe.

Do you or have you considered running the severe weather coverage on the netcast section of your web site? When you break into normal programming as you did on 6/24 is this a possibility.

Jay Fritzemeier
Building Services Manager
Trail King Industries, Inc.
Box 1064
Mitchell, SD 57301
jayfritz@trailking.com
605-995-3735

Storm Center

From: judy [ljwagner@gwtc.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 11:30 AM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: great job!

Hello,

We live in the Winner/Colome area and want to compliment you on the great coverage of the impending storm conditions on Tue., June 24. Jay and the "gang" were informative and yet very calm in the midst of the chaotic situation. We depend on you and our trust seems to be very well placed.

Larry and Judy Wagner
31626 28th St.
Colome, SD 57528

6/25/2003

Storm Center

From: evie [tuffstuff@gwtc.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 11:50 AM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: Last nights coverage of storms

We out here in Rapid City sat glued to our seats in front of the TV from 6:00 until 10:30 last evening watching your station and the fantastic coverage your staff gave of the terrible storms going on all over the state. It was one of the most interesting and educational evenings I have ever spent in front of the TV - and your crews, both men and women, inside and outside of the station, did a phenomenal job!!!!!! The technology your station has at their disposal is unbelievable and we out here in west river are so happy we are able to see your station and have access to what your station has to offer the public. Thank you, each and every one of you, for showing us what a really wonderful group of people you are. Your professionalism is above reproach and we commend you, each and every one of you.

Storm Center

From: Connie Bicek [ConnieBicek@ffb-sd.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 11:24 AM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: weather coverage

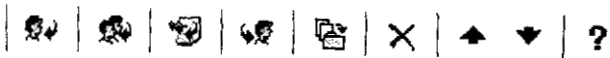
6-25-03

We certainly appreciate the weather coverage that you gave during last night's storm. We realize that the majority of the violent weather was maintained in the eastern part of the state, and the coverage for those counties was crucial. However, during your broadcast Tripp county was listed in a severe thunderstorm warning, and due to the small state map located in the bottom left-hand corner of the screen we were unable to see the radar, or tell if severe weather was moving into our area. Thank you for your coverage and your time, and please remember that we rely on you for our weather coverage and our safety. Thank You!!!
Kathy

Storm Center

From: kimotterness@mycellone.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 11:13 AM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: storm chasing

First of all YOU GUYS DID GREAT LAST NIGHT!!!!!! Do you ever let people ride along when you go chasing storms? I live in Pierre and I LOVE storms (yes I am a little strange, but that is what makes me lovable:) I like blizzards & tornados! So if there is ever a bad storm out this way, stop and pick me up:) Keep up the good work!



From: greenyale@webtv.net [SMTP:greenyale@webtv.net]

To: stormcenter@keloland.com

Cc:

Subject: coverage

Sent: 6/25/03 10:17 PM

Importance: Normal

WOW!! Thanks for such hard work on the coverage of all the tornados!
Your team did such a great job! I was watching from Rapid City and very
concerned about my parents in Yale, South Dakota who live close to
Manchester and DeSmet. Your very professional and indepth coverage
saved lives! You should be very proud of your team!

Cindy Green
Rapid City

Storm Center

From: Clborman@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 11:03 AM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: Thankyou

I would just like to say thankyou to all of you for staying of the air last night and all of the work you done out in the storms. You probally don't get told enough but what you do is very appreciated. You are all awesome. God Bless all of you.

6/25/2003

Storm Center

From: Jessica Olson [betty_2372@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 11:01 AM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: Last Night's Storm

Hey~

I just wanted to tell you guys that I am from the Gayville-Volin area and this morning when I got up to see how much rain we got I was so amazed. We had recieved 4 inches of rain!! That is quite alot considering our drought like conditions lately. I was up all night watching you guys in the Storm Center and you all did a great job at informing the viewers of what was going on at all times!! You guys keep up the good work!!!

From,

Jessica Olson, Volin, SD

P.S. This is the one birthday that I will never forget!! (It was my 18th Birthday on June 24th)

The new MSN 8: advanced junk mail protection and 2 months FREE*
<http://join.msn.com/?page=features/junkmail>

Storm Center

From: mary boggs [kaypat@dakota.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 10:38 AM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: KELO ON CNN

CONGRATULATIONS KELO!

WE SAW SHAWN CABLE ON CNN THIS MORNING RE: LAST NIGHTS TORNADOES, ETC. IN KELOLAND.

WHAT A WONDERFUL JOB OF BROADCASTING!

HE WAS SO PROFESSIONAL AND ARTICULATE.

WE'RE VERY PROUD OF OUR ENTIRE KELO TEAM! AND WE'RE VERY PROUD TO HAVE YOU REPRESENT US AS SOUTH DAKOTANS ON NATIONAL MEDIA.

GREAT JOB!

TIM AND MARY BOGGS

6/25/2003

Storm Center

From: Sarah Koustrup [Sarah.Koustrup@usdmed.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 10:31 AM
To: 'stormcenter@keloland.com'
Subject: Thank you

I just wanted to send a huge thank you to all of the weather staff at KELO TV for all your hard work last night. When every other local channel was playing rerun television and reality shows you were brought us uninterrupted information of everything that was happening. The most important reality TV if you think about it. My 2 month old daughter and I stayed hunkered down in front of our television during your entire broadcast (minus our trips to the basement of course). You kept us informed, you kept us safe, and I cannot express how much it meant to me. My husband was forced to work last night due to the storms and as much as he hated to leave he said "Just watch KELO and you will be just fine"..... he was right.

Thank you!!!
Sarah Koustrup
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Storm Center

From: Denice Dirks [ddirks@agrienergy.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 10:32 AM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: good job

The weather & news teams did a WONDERFUL job last night keeping everyone informed about where the storms were. Keep up the good job.

Denice Dirks
Agri-Energy LLC
502 S Walnut
Luverne MN 56156
Phone 507-283-9297 ext.102
Fax 507-283-0001

6/25/2003

Storm Center

From: paul [paul@itctel.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 10:15 AM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: Thanks!

To the crew at Kelo tv-

Thank you for the great coverage of the storms on 6-24-03! We really like the continuous coverage (nights like last night, there isn't much choice with the constant flow of new warnings). Your studio crew and those who were out in the field did a wonderful job and we appreciate you and your work!

Christie Hindbjorgen

6/25/2003

Storm Center

From: Marla Wolff [wolff-pack@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 10:02 AM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: Weather Coverage of 6/24/03

ATTN SHAWN CABLE / WEATHER COVERAGE TEAM

I've never emailed a news station before, but after the events of last nite felt I needed to. My family and I moved to Yankton a year ago from Wichita, Kansas. I've lived most of my life in that state and am quite accustomed to the weather we experienced here last night. I have gone through a few tornadoes myself and am aware first hand how serious these types of storms can be.

Even tho Wichita is a much larger city than Sioux Falls and again, much more accustomed to these types of events, I felt the need to tell you how impressed I was with your coverage of the storms last night. I have been a little uneasy since moving up here, not knowing just how 'equipped' this part of the country was for these types of storms. Your station has, to say the least, put my fears to rest.

I have to admit, I did a lot of channel surfing last night, but found myself returning to KELO - where I ultimately kept my TV tuned to!

Thank you for helping me feel safe and for feeling confident about assuring my children that we were fine.

Sincerely,

Marla Wolff
Yankton, SD

6/25/2003

Storm Center

From: JD Collins [jdcollins@kikn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 10:08 AM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: Storm Coverage/KIKN

Great job to everyone on your staff last night on storm coverage. Unbelievable night.

JD Collins
KIKN 100.5

Storm Center

From: Danandmertodd@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 9:54 AM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: Nice Job!

You guys did a fabulous job last night. I wouldn't have been tuned to any other station. Thanks for keeping us advised and up to date so accurately. Jay Trobec, you're a real pro!
Meredith Todd, Sioux Falls

Storm Center

From: nancy halajian [feline46@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 9:37 AM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: Good job!

Jay,

I just wanted to tell you what a great job you did last night during all the storms. I really appreciate all the work you do and how you stay so composed and calm through it all. I think you, Shawn, Brian and Scott are among the best weathermen around. I also love the desktop weather on the computer too.

Thanks,
Nancy H.
Mitchell, S.D.

Storm Center

From: Jan Brader [bradertj@mchsi.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 9:09 AM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: GOOD JOB

Hi there

Just wanted to send you this e mail to tell you what a "Great Job" you people did last night in reporting all the tornado and thunderstorm warnings. We live in Cherokee County, Iowa so we were not in the path of the storms but I was very impressed at your dedication to giving all the weather warnings as soon as you got them and explained just exactly where they were and when they would get to certain places. I just hope that if that ever happens in our area that our weather people are as good as you guys and gals are.

Just a note to let you know that you should be very proud of the job you did last night. I am very impressed as to how calm you were. A Job Well Done

Thanks for being there for the people of South Dakota. I have a daughter that goes to college in Vermillion, South Dakota and we are always watching the weather for that area.

Keep up the good work Jan Brader bradertj@mchsi.com

Storm Center

From: shelly [crystalmom1@sio.midco.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2003 9:06 AM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: Tornado Alerts

I am writing to let someone know and maybe somehow someone can help. There was no tornado 15 miles north of Mt. Vernon last night. If a person were to drive up to Mt. Vernon and go 15 miles north then turn west at the Storla turn off and go 3 miles, there is nothing out there at all and especially no sirens to alert anyone. My friend lives where I just explained to you and she has a husband and two small boys that were caught by surprise when without warning the tornado struck them. They are now safe but the damage is there, no power, the trampoline is 4 miles down the road and lots of other damage to the property. There is also some other elderly people out there that have allot of damage and are alone. Is there not someway to give them an advanced warning system out in that area? My friend called me at 9 AM today to let me know everyone was ok and that they are starting the clean-up. Please let me know if there is someway we can help them out there.

Shelly Legg
605-361-0275

crystalmom1@sio.midco.net

My friends Name is:

Lauri Schmidt
24355 394th Ave.
Mt.Vernon, S.D.
605-248-2224

schmidt0161@santel.net

Thank you so much for the great news coverage on the storms and keeping everyone informed.

GREAT JOB EVERYONE.

Storm Center

From: Cindy Endres [Cindy.Endres@mckennan.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 7:51 AM
To: 'stormcenter@keloland.com'
Subject: Storm coverage

Just wanted to thank you for your continuous coverage last evening during the storms in Keloland. You really are lifesavers. I used to live in Spencer, IA. We did a lot of letters to the editor and just public awareness in Spencer because that is a town of 11,000 people and no sirens. The city council, more so Dean Torreson, city manager, feels sirens were created during war times for atomic bomb notification. They think this is not a current way to notify the community of storm danger. (This could be a great story for a bored investigator.) To say the least, I have spent many nights up clinging to my basement television with Kelo. The problem is when we'd lose power.

I just wanted you to know that what you do is appreciated by a parent trying to keep her family safe with your help. Keep up the good work and don't forget my friends back in Iowa. They really need you and your excellent coverage. You can break into my programming anytime.

Cindy Endres, RT(R) (M)
Avera Doctors Plaza Imaging Center

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Storm Center

From: Linda Brost [lsbrost@unitelsd.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 6:42 AM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: THANK YOU!

To the Keloland Weather Team--

Thank you so much for your excellent coverage of the violent weather last night. You did a fantastic job under impossible conditions of keeping the people informed of the dangerous storms. Your reporting of possible tornadoes via VIPIR, before actual sightings, may be a good reason that we were blessed with few injuries. Please know, how much the public appreciates your work!

Linda Byington
Bridgewater, South Dakota

Storm Center

From: Orie Rentschler [orentsch@iw.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 6:16 AM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: tornado

We live 3 miles south of Hartford and a tornado went through here about 10:45 last night taking off part of our roof and leaving major tree damage. I can see the path of the tornado by the trees that were damaged and the trees that were left untouched.

Thanks for the great storm coverage and warnings last night.

Wayne & Orie Rentschler
26335 463rd Avenue
Hartford

526-6679

Storm Center

From: jbxrb@webtv.net
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 6:03 AM
To: stormcenter@keloland.com
Subject: weather

Great job on the weather. I turned the T. V. on at 2AM Tue morning and there you guys were radar picture and all . Thanks. 1.10 inches in my KELO rain gauge Wed. morning. 6miles N of Oacoma john